# 2009

# FURBEARER

Montana Hunting Regulations

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Pine marten *Martes americana*. Photo by Michael Haring

***What's New?*** *See Page 2 for Details and Reminders*

**Apply for General Licenses, Special Licenses, and SuperTags Online: fwp.mt.gov**

These seasons are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission per MCA 87-1-301 and are valid July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010. The 2008 and 2009 season regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 5, 2008, and the 2009 quotas were adopted on August 13, 2009. Joe Maurier, FWP Director.

## What's New and Reminders

**What's New –**

- Bobcat quota change in Trapping Districts 2 and 3.
- Fisher statewide female subquota.

**Reminders –**

- Purchase Online your general trapping, hunting and/or fishing license.
- Bobcat/Wolverine validation deadline is November 30, 2009.

## License Requirements

The following licenses, except the Landowner Trapper and Fur Dealer licenses, are available at Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and most FWP license providers throughout the state. The current years' trapper license is valid July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

| License | Requirements | Cost |
|---|---|---|
| Conservation | Required Prerequisite | $8 Resident<br>$10 Nonresident |
| General Trapper, Resident | Available to resident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Allows license holder to trap furbearers and trap or hunt bobcat and wolverine. Deadline to purchase license: February 28, 2010. | $20 |
| Youth Trapper, Resident | Available to resident conservation license holders 6 through 11 years of age. Only valid for two furbearers – mink and muskrat. Deadline to purchase license: February 28, 2010. | Free |
| Landowner Trapper, Resident | Applicant must give legal description of owned or leased land, name, address and resident ALS number. License holder restricted to trapping and hunting only on their owned property and leased lands. Issued only through FWP offices. Deadline to purchase license: February 28, 2010. | $1 |
| Nonresident Trapper | Available only to nonresident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older, whose state of residence has nonresident trapper licenses available to Montana trappers. Valid only for predatory animals and nongame wildlife. Season Dates: October 16-April 15. Deadline to purchase license: February 28, 2010. | $250 |
| Hound Training, Resident | Available to resident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Deadline to purchase license: February 28, 2010. | $5 |
| Fur Dealer | Issued only through FWP Helena Headquarters, Law Enforcement Division. | $10 Resident<br>$10 Agent<br>$** Nonresident |
| **Nonresident fur dealer license cost is the same cost as a resident fur dealer license in the home state of the applicant. | | |

**Bobcat and Wolverine License Requirements –** Bobcat and wolverine may be taken only by resident trappers or hunters that purchase a trapper license no later than November 30.

**License Requirement Exemptions –** A license is not required for resident trappers/hunters or nonresident hunters to take predatory animals and nongame wildlife.

**Resident Hound Training License (RHTL) –** Entitles license holder to use a dog or dogs to aid in pursuing mountain lions and bobcats during the hound training season from December 2 - April 14 of the following year per MCA 87-2-521. In a portion of hunting district 292 (292-02), the training season is January 1 - April 14, 2009. A person may not kill a mountion lion or bobcat with a RHTL.

## Definitions

**Furbearers –** Furbearing animals are legally defined as beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx and swift fox. There is no season for lynx or swift fox. ONLY MONTANA RESIDENTS MAY HUNT OR TRAP FURBEARERS, LICENSE REQUIRED.

**Predators –** Predatory animals are legally defined as coyote, weasel, skunk and civet cat (spotted skunk). LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS ONLY.

**Nongame Wildlife –** Any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples of nongame wildlife are badger, raccoon and red fox. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS ONLY.

**Fur Dealer –** Any person or persons, firm company or corporation engaging in or conducting wholly or in part the business of buying or selling, trading or dealing within the State of Montana, in the skins or pelts of any animal or animals, designated by the laws of Montana as furbearing or predatory animals. If such fur dealer resides in or if his principal place of business is within the state of Montana, he shall be deemed a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers should be deemed nonresident fur dealers.

**Trap –** Trapping means to take or participate in the taking of any wildlife protected by the laws of the state by setting or placing any mechanical device, snare, deadfall, pit or device intended to take wildlife or to remove wildlife from any of these devices.

**Ground Set –** Any trap originally set in or on the land (soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated less than 48 inches above the natural ground or snow level.

**Water Set –** Any trap originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one-third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides. This shall not apply to temporarily standing water resulting from any cause, such as rainfall, snow, runoff or flooding.

**Other Sets –** Includes any set not defined as a ground or water set, including without limitation, elevated sets originally set 48 inches or more above natural ground or snow level.

## General Trapping Regulations

These regulations apply to trapping of furbearers, predators and nongame wildlife.

**Checking and Placing Traps –** Traps should be checked at least once every 48 hours. It is the trapper's responsibility to check his/her traps regularly. Failure to pick up traps or snares at the end of the trapping season or attending them in a manner that waste furbearing animals constitutes a misdemeanor per MCA 87-3-506.

**Landowner Permission –** Resident trappers and hunters must obtain permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping or hunting on private land. It is unlawful to set snares on private property without landowner permission per MCA 87-3-107.

Nonresidents must obtain written permission from the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping or snaring predatory animals and nongame wildlife on private property per MCA 87-2-604.

**Trap Identification –** Metal identification tags must be fastened to all traps and snares per MCA 87-3-504. Metal tags must bear the name and address of the trapper or a personal identification number, which is the trappers date of birth and ALS number.

Tags should be attached to the end of the snare, chain or other anchoring material at the end farthest from the portion of the device which holds the animal.

Landowners who trap on their own lands and irrigation right-of-way contiguous to their land do not need to tag traps or snares.

**Exposed Carcass or Bait –** No trap or snare may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass or bait which is visible from above. Exposed carcass

or bait is defined as the meat or viscera of a mammal, bird or fish, or any part thereof that is more than one pound in weight. Bleached bones are excluded.

**Snares –** All snares are required to be equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when not more than 350 ft/lbs of force is applied. Breakaway snares must be fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground. The use of drags is prohibited. Relaxing snares are allowed.

Snares must be set in a manner and at a time so as not to duly endanger livestock. A trapper who injures livestock in a snare is liable for damage and this constitutes a misdemeanor.

**Disturbing Traps or Trapped Animals –** It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or remove any trap, snare or trapped wildlife belonging to a trapper without permission of the owner of the trap or snare, except that from May 1 to October 1 a landowner may remove any snare from owned or leased land if such snare could endanger livestock per MCA 87-3-507.

**Non-Target Species –** Trapping or snaring of non-target species could constitute a violation of state law per MCA 87-3-101. Protected birds or mammals found in traps, uninjured shall be released on site. Trappers that accidentally trap or snare protected animals that cannot be released uninjured must immediately notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee for assistance to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal.

**Recorded or Electronic Devices –** It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of wildlife, except predatory animals and those birds not protected by state and federal law per MCA 87-3-108.

**Export –** When transporting game, furbearers or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form and inspection. Contact the Wildlife Inspector, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Great Falls International Airport, 2800 Terminal Drive, Suite 105, Great Falls MT 59404 or phone 406-453-5790 or fax 406-453-3657.

**State School Trust Land –** A resident Conservation License allows hunters, anglers and trappers access to all legally accessible State school trust lands. However, licensed trappers are required to obtain a free Special Recreational Use License (SRUL) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping or snaring on state school trust lands. Trapping may be restricted to those state school trust lands as approved in the SRUL. For further information on how to obtain a SRUL, contact one of the following DNRC offices. The deadline to apply for a SRUL is September 30.

DNRC Headquarters
Trust Land Management Division
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-1868

Northwestern Land Office
2250 Highway 93 North
Kalispell MT 59901
406-751-2240

Southwestern Land Office
1401 27th Avenue
Missoula MT 59801
406-542-4200

Central Land Office
8001 N Montana Avenue
Helena MT 59601
406-444-3633

Northeastern Land Office
USDA Building, 613 NE. Main
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-7789

Southern Land Office
Airport Industrial Park
Billings MT 59101
406-247-4400

Eastern Land Office
321 Main Street
Miles City MT 59301
406-232-2034

Glasgow Unit Office
224 Sixth Street South
Glasgow MT 59230
406-228-2430

**State Game Preserves, FWP Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), FWP Fishing Access Sites (FAS) and Parks –** All state game preserves are open to furbearer trapping. Wildlife Management Areas with big game winter range, unless otherwise posted are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted (The Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10). Trapping on Fish, Wildlife & Parks lands which includes WMA, FAS, and State Parks may be allowed by written authorization of the area manager or a department employee for land not having a resident manager. Beaver Creek Park is open to trapping only by permission obtained from the Hill County Park Board.

**Montana Stream Access Law –** This law does not apply to trapping or snaring. Trappers are required to obtain permission from the landowner to trap or snare on navigable streams and rivers between the low and high water marks.

**Tribal Lands –** Tribal governments may have adopted trapping regulations within the exterior boundaries of their respective reservations. Trappers should be aware that tribal regulations may differ from the statewide trapping regulations adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Montana tribal governments currently offer no trapping permits to nonmembers. Questions of state-tribal jurisdiction have not been resolved.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks will not provide CITES or state pelt tags for furbearers taken from Tribal or Indian Trust lands on reservations. Furbearers legally taken under state regulations with a Montana trapping license, during an open season, from deeded "fee" lands within the exterior boundary of a reservation may be tagged by a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee.

**Closures –** All National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and Indian Trust or Tribal Trust lands are closed to trapping except as otherwise specified. For information or permits to trap on National Wildlife Refuges contact the local refuge manager.

**Littering –** A person convicted of littering while hunting, trapping, fishing or camping shall forfeit their license or privileges to hunt, trap, fish or camp within Montana for a period of one year.

**Hunter Education –** All persons born after January 1, 1985, are required to provide proof of completion of a Montana Hunter Safety and Education Course or a hunter safety course in any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

## Montana Trapper Education

Resident trappers are encouraged to participate in the voluntary trapper education program in your area or the annual Youth Trapper Camp. Contact an FWP regional office for more information.

## Furbearer Regulations

Taking of furbearers during the open season by any means other than trapping or snaring is prohibited, unless otherwise stated.

**Hunting –** Bobcat and wolverine are the only animals defined by law as furbearing animals that may be taken by hunting per MCA 87-2-601. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

**Dogs –** Dogs may be used to take bobcat per MCA 87-3-124, but no other animals defined by law as furbearing animals. Dogs may be used to hunt or chase bobcats within prescribed hunting hours and seasons.

**Harvest Data Reporting –** Trappers and hunters are required to personally provide harvest registration data for bobcat, otter, marten, fisher and wolverine at the time the pelt is presented to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee for tagging.

**Return to Kill Site –** As a condition of hunting and trapping in Montana, persons may be required to return to the kill site or trap site if requested to do so by a FWP employee.

**Inspection –** Furbearers taken must be shown to FWP enforcement for inspection when requested per MCA 87-1-502.

**Closures –** In Trapping District 2 the Blue Mountain and Pattee Canyon Recreation Areas, and the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (that portion lying outside and excluding the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area) are closed to furbearer trapping. For information or maps of these Special Recreation Areas, contact the local US Forest Service Office.

**Ground Sets Along Public Roads and Highways –** Ground sets using 7 x 7 inches and larger body-gripping traps and snares are prohibited within the right of way of county roads, state and federal highways, and interstates. Along public roads with no defined right of way then these ground sets are prohibited within thirty (30) feet from the road centerline.

Jaw spread sizes of common conibear traps:

| | |
|---|---|
| 110 - 4.5 inches | 220 - 7 inches |
| 120 - 4.5 inches | 280 - 8 inches |
| 160 - 6 inches | 330 - 10 inches |

**Public Land Ground Sets –** On public federal and state school trust lands, ground sets using 7 x 7 inch and larger body-gripping traps must have the trigger recessed a minimum of seven (7) inches in wood, plastic and metal enclosures or cubby that provide an opening of 52 square inches or less.

**Public Land Roads and Trails –** On public federal and state school trust lands, ground sets including snares require a 50-foot setback from along the edge of open roads and hiking trails that are designated by administrative signs or numbers.

**Public Land Trailheads –** On public federal and state school trust lands, ground sets including snares are prohibited within 300 feet and lethal ground sets and lethal snares are prohibited within 1000 feet of a designated or marked trailhead that is accessible by highway vehicle.

**Public Land Campground –** On public federal and state school trust lands, ground sets including snares are prohibited within 1000 feet of a designated campground or fishing access site that is accessible by highway vehicle.

**Occupied Dwellings –** Ground sets including snares are prohibited within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification of the occupant(s).

**Destroying Muskrat and Beaver Houses –** It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, open or leave open, a muskrat or beaver house. This shall not prohibit trapping in muskrat houses when authorized by the Commission per MCA 87-3-503.

**Tagged Furbearers –** A number of furbearing animals have been tagged for scientific study. If one of these animals is captured, please notify the nearest game warden or regional office of the tag number or numbers and the locality of the capture.

**Pelt Possession –** It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur dealer agent to purchase or possess any untagged bobcat, otter, marten, fisher or wolverine, except those untagged furs originating outside Montana which are accompanied by an export permit or other documentation of lawful acquisition.

**Live Furbearers –** Wild furbearers captured alive must be immediately killed or released. It is unlawful for a person to possess or transport live furbearers per MCA 87-3-111. Live furbearing animals may not be possessed or transported except under the provisions of the fur farm or roadside zoo permits. It is unlawful to capture wild furbearers for fur farm stock per MCA 87-4-1014.

**Non-Target Captures –** To improve understanding of accidental dog captures in traps or snares, trappers must report such captures, excluding trapper's dog, to an FWP regional office within 48 hours of identifying the capture.

**Penalties –** Persons convicted of knowingly taking, possessing or transporting furbearers or pelts in violation of the rules or laws, shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $1,000, imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both. In addition, such person shall forfeit his privilege to hunt, fish or trap for not less than 24 months. Civil restitution from $100 to $500 may be assessed for each illegal animal or pelt.

## Special Regulations

Fish, Wildlife & Parks owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are generally open to trapping, although special regulations apply to most WMAs. Contact the local WMA manager or the FWP regional office for information on how to obtain permission to trap on WMAs in the state. The following WMAs have special regulations in effect that require trappers to apply for a permit by September 30 to trap all or a portion of the area.

**Beckman Wildlife Management Area –** The Beckman Wildlife Management Area, Fergus County, is open to one trapper per trapping season. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and permitted to trap furbearers and predators. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of upland game bird season. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Thomas Stivers, Beckman WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 938, Lewistown, MT 59457-0938

**Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area** – The Mt. Haggin WMA consists of trapping units where a quota of three (3) licensed trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including ten (10) beaver. Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order of names drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Trappers wishing to take predators must contact Vanna Boccadori for a trapping permit. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Vanna Boccadori, Mt. Haggin WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1820 Meadowlark Lane, Butte MT 59701

**Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area** – The Freezout Lake WMA is divided into two (2) different trapping units for furbearers. One of these units consists of Pond 3 and is available for trapping to interested trappers by drawing only. Two trapping seasons are designated: fall (November 1 to December 31) and spring (January 1 to April 15). After March 15 no traps will be allowed in/on muskrat houses or hay bale nesting structures. Trappers and trapping units will be selected/assigned by random drawing. Unless supply exceeds demand, any one trapper may trap only one unit and/or season per year. The second trapping unit consists of the main lake, Priest Lake and Ponds 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. This second unit will be open to any/all interested trappers except those persons already holding drawn permission to trap Pond 3. Trapping, hunting and access within the waterfowl closure on the south end of the main lake is prohibited until November 20. Any part of the WMA that is open to public access is open to interested parties for the hunting and/or trapping of predators and nongame wildlife. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply. Applicants must submit their name, address, telephone number, ALS number and indicate the season for which they wish to be considered by September 30 to:

Brent Lonner, Freezout Lake WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 488, Fairfield MT 59436

**Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area** – The Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area is divided into two (2) trapping units with only one unit open to trapping in a given year. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and will be notified which unit is open for trapping. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the pheasant season. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Tom Carlsen, Canyon Ferry WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 988, Townsend MT 59644

**Upper Madison Beaver Management Area** (refer to legal description) – The Upper Madison trapping area consists of seven (7) units for beaver and otter with quotas for each species. Trapping season is November 1 through April 15 by permit only. Trapping units will be allocated based upon a random drawing of written trapper applications. Trappers may select a trapping area in the order their names are drawn. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap five (5), or ten (10) beaver depending on the trapping area assigned. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Julie Cunningham, Upper Madison Beaver Management Area
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715

**Trail Creek Beaver Managment Area** – The Trail Creek trapping area is described as Joseph Creek from Chief Joseph Pass to the confluence with Trail Creek and Trail Creek downstream of this confluence to the National Forest boundary. The Trail Creek trapping areas consists of one (1) unit for beaver and otter. One (1) trapper will be selected by random drawing to trap this unit. The selected trapper shall be permitted to trap five (5) beaver. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must sumit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Vanna Boccadori, Trail Creek Beaver Management Area
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1820 Meadlowlark Lane, Butte, MT 59701

**Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area** – The Blackfoot-Clearwater Area is divided into two (2) trapping units (Clearwater River and Cottonwood Creek), and trapping is permitted during two (2) periods (November 1 – January 31; February 1 – April 15); with one trapper per unit and time period (4 trappers total). Trappers will be selected by random drawing. The first trapper will be asked to choose a unit and period, the second trapper drawn will be offered the remaining choices and so on. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers, including ten (10) beaver. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Jay Kolbe, Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59801

**Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area** – The Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area consists of one (1) trapping unit. A spring trapping season is designated: January 1 to April 15. No trapping will be allowed on the area until after the waterfowl hunting season. One trapper will be permitted to trap furbearers and predators. The trapper will be selected by a random drawing. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to

apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number by September 30 to:

Jenny Sika, Lake Helena WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
930 Custer Avenue West, Helena MT 59601

**Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area** – The Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area consists of three (3) trapping units for furbearers: Warm Springs Ponds Unit, Warm Springs Hospital Ponds Unit and the Job Corps Ponds Unit. Applicants should be aware that most of the access is by foot or in some areas, nonmotorized boat. Selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including not more than five (5) beaver per trapping unit. Trappers may select a trapping unit in the order their names are drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping unit. Trappers wishing to take predators must contact the FWP Area Manager for a predator trapping permit. All trapping permits are valid through April 15. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trappers license number by September 30 to:

Dave Dziak, Warm Springs WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Box A, Warm Springs MT 59756

## General Information

**Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity and Animal Welfare**

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold more animals and reduce the chance of injuries occuring.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets and especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use guarded "stop-loss" traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species—foot pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon, and most other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings, and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps—tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.
- Use traps with laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use discretion and select trap site placement carefully when setting body-gripping traps.
- Use time to your advantage—do not set more traps than you can handle.
- Use early morning trap checks to reduce the time an animal is held, reduce its chances of pulling out, and avoid theft of traps and animals.

**BreakAway Snares**

Following are examples of commercially manufactured breakaway lock designs that meet regulation requirements to release at 350 ft/lbs. or less:

- Amberg Lock with release ferrule
- Gregerson Lock Snares
- Snare Shop - N. D. Lock and Stop
- Breakaway J-Hooks
- Breakaway S-Hooks
- Thompson Snares - Thompson Release Lock

For information on dealers of breakway lock devices and snares, contact the FWP State Furbearer Coordinator at 406-444-0042.

## Furbearer Seasons

The state is divided into legally described trapping districts or managment units designated by numbers, wherein the season dates, limits and species of furbearers which may be taken are specified.

**2008 and 2009 Furbearer Season Dates by Trapping District**

| Species | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beaver | Nov. 1 - Apr. 15 | | | Sept. 1 - May 31 | | | |
| Otter<br>Muskrat<br>Mink | Nov. 1 - Apr. 15 | | | | | | |
| Bobcat | Dec. 1 - Feb. 15 | | | Dec. 1 - Mar. 1 | | | |
| Marten | Dec. 1 - Feb. 15 | | | | | Closed Season | |
| Fisher | Dec. 1 - Feb. 15 | | Closed Season | | | | |
| Wolverine | Dec. 1 - Feb. 15 | | | | | Closed Season | |
| Lynx<br>Swift Fox | Closed Season | | | | | | |

**BEAVER –**

**Trapping District 1, 2 and 3 Season Dates:** November 1 – April 15 of the following year. **Trapping District 4, 5, 6, and 7 Season Dates:** September 1 – May 31 of the following year. Exceptions include State Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures. See Special Regulations.

**Limit** – Unlimited.

Beaver that have been legally trapped can be dispatched with a firearm.

Owners and lessees of property being damaged by beaver may request a free permit to remove beaver under provisions of state law. A landowner may remove damaging beaver without a permit between June 1 - August 31. Please contact your local game warden for further information and to request a damage control permit.

A person participating in a beaver damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during control activities. Damaging beaver may be removed by trapping or shooting. A person may possess beaver under the damage permit.

**Closures -** All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping.

Broadwater County – Those portions of Dry Creek, Confederate Gulch, White's Gulch, Avalanche Gulch, Eagle Creek, Crow Creek, Jenkins Creek on public land.

Deer Lodge County – The entire Dry Cottonwood Creek drainage.

Gallatin County – That portion of the Gallatin River and all of its tributaries above the Gallatin River Bridge at the Squaw Creek Ranger Station.

Gallatin and Park Counties – That portion of the Yellowstone River and all of its tributaries inside the Gallatin National Forest boundary above the Yellowstone River Bridge on Interstate Highway 90 at Livingston.

Granite County – The entire Smart Creek, Wyman Creek, Swamp Gulch Creek, and Sand Basin Creek drainages.

Lewis and Clark County – The Blackfoot River upstream from the mouth of Bartlett Creek including the entire Bartlett Creek drainage.

Mineral County – The entire Cedar Creek, Big Creek and Flatrock Creek drainages.

Missoula and Mineral Counties – The entire Fish Creek drainage.

Missoula County – Nine Mile Creek drainage above Pine Creek.

Powell County – The entire Pikes Peak drainage.

Sweet Grass County – That portion of the East Boulder River and all its tributaries from the Gallatin National Forest boundary upstream to the headwaters of the East Boulder River.

Sweet Grass and Park Counties – That portion of the Main Boulder River and all its tributaries from the mouth of Falls Creek upstream to the headwaters of the Main Boulder River.

Teton County – The entire Teton drainage including all tributaries of the South, Middle, West and North Forks of the Teton River, downstream to the National Forest boundary.

**OTTER –**

**Statewide Season Dates:** November 1 – April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS). Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota or on the season closure date, whichever occurs first.

**Limit** – A person may take and posses two (2) otter per season. The otter season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

| **Trapping District:** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Otter Quota:** | 21 | 20 | 36 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 |

**Closures –** All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping.

**Quotas** – Current harvest quota information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727, 24 hours a day or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached prior to the end of the regular season.The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has authorized the department to initiate a closure prior to reaching a quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 48-hour closure notice period.

**Reporting –** Trappers are required to personally report their otter harvest within 24 hours by calling the statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks reporting line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453) so that FWP can monitor quota levels. Trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, trapping district, county, specific location (legal description), and sex when reporting a furbearer harvest. When reporting a furbearer harvest, it is unlawful to subscribe to or make any statement that is materially false.

**Pelt Tagging –** Trappers are required to personally present the pelts of otter for tagging to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) employee within ten (10) days after harvest. Trappers are required to provide harvest registration data for otter at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Trappers unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must still register their pelts within ten (10) days after harvest by contacting a regional office to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or registered to FWP personnel within ten (10) days of harvest are subject to confiscation.

**Carcasses** – It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all otter be turned into Fish, Wildlife & Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if requested. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis. Any otter pelt that is presented for tagging without the carcass in good condition shall be subject to confiscation.

**Incidental Take** – Furbearers that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or trapper limit is met that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within 24 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer per MCA 87-1-102.

**Export** – A federal export permit is required in addition to a Montana CITES tag before the pelts of otter may be exported from the United States. For general information on federal export requirements contact: Wildlife Inspector, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Great Falls International Airport, 2800 Terminal Drive, Suite 105, Great Falls MT 59404 or phone (406) 453-5790 or fax (406) 453-3657.

**Recommendations to avoid incidental harvest of otter** –

Otter inhabit rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and ponds. If the otter season has closed, avoid trapping where otter sign is evident. Look for tracks and scat while scouting or setting an area for beaver. When placing any kind of trap along a beaver pond, avoid putting sets near the dam crossover or near the inlet of the pond. One relatively otter-safe set utilizes a castor mound on the edge of a pond. The castor scent will attract beaver while otter will generally be uninterested. Also, avoid setting near abandoned beaver lodges and bank dens. These sets are not productive for beaver, and otter will readily use them. Otter generally avoid areas where beaver are active, so make sets as close as possible to active lodges.

Size 330 body-gripping traps (Conibears) are one of the most commonly used beaver traps. The trap is also very effective for otter. With some minor alterations the 330 can be set to minimize accidental otter captures. Move the trigger as far as you can to one side of the trap and bend the trigger wires close together. You can also shorten the trigger length to four to five inches by cutting or bending the wires. Since otter are more slender than beaver, otter often glide through the trap without tripping the trigger. Beaver, which tend to be larger and slightly less agile, will likely hit the release trigger while moving through the trap.

If you use foothold traps to capture beaver, do not use them on dam crossovers, since otter often use these same areas. Castor mound sets with the trap set fairly deep are less likely to catch otter.

**MUSKRAT –**

**Statewide Season Dates:** November 1 – April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See Special Regulations).

**Limit** – Unlimited.

Traps may be set in muskrat houses provided the part removed is replaced after insertion of the trap and after removal of the trap. It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, leave open or partially destroy a muskrat house per MCA 87-3-503.

**MINK –**

**Statewide Season Dates:** November 1 – April 15 of the following year except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See Special Regulations).

**Limit** – Unlimited.

**BOBCAT –**

**Trapping District 1, 2 and 3 Season Dates:** December 1 – February 15 of the following year. **Trapping District 4, 5, 6 and 7 Season Dates:** December 1 – March 1 of the following year. License must be purchased no later than November 30. Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota or on the season closure date, whichever occurs first.

Special Bobcat Regulations in Trapping Districts 1 and 2 – To minimize the incidental capture of lynx the following special bobcat regulations apply in a portion of Trapping Districts 1 and 2. See legal description, page 10.

Bobcat Snares – Lethal snares are prohibited in all bobcat sets.

**Limit** – A person may possess no more than a total of seven (7) bobcats per season from Trapping Districts 1, 2 and 3 in combination. A person may take and possess four (4) bobcats per season from Trapping District 1. A person may take and possess seven (7) bobcats per season from Trapping District 2. A person may take and possess five (5) bobcats per season from Trapping District 3. A person may take and possess an unlimited number of bobcats from Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6 or 7. The bobcat season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

| **Trapping District:** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bobcat Quota:** | 250 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 500 | 125 | 800 |

**Hunting Season –** Bobcat may be taken by hunting per MCA 87-2-601. Bobcat hunting is open each day one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset during the open season. Bobcat chasing is open each day from two (2) hours before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the hunting districts where mountain lion season has closed (check mountain lion closures at 1-800-385-7826). Bobcat chasing is open each day from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the hunting districts where mountain lion season is open. Bobcats may not be hunted or taken except during legal bobcat hunting hours. Dogs may be used to hunt and chase bobcats within prescribed seasons.

Dogs may be used to take bobcat per MCA 87-3-124, but no other animals defined by law as furbearing animals. Dogs may be used to hunt or chase bobcats within prescribed hunting hours and seasons.

Persons with a valid trapper license may legally chase bobcats during the open season and anytime after the season is closed in Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3 until February 15 or Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6, 7 until March 1. A trapper license must be purchased no later than November 30 of the current year to be valid.

Nonresidents may not hunt or chase bobcats. Residents must posses a valid trappers license to hunt and chase bobcats or an RHTL to only chase bobcats.

Landowner permission is required to hunt on private land, including releasing dogs or chasing bobcats during the chase-only season.

**Chase-only Season – Trapping District 1, 2 and 3:** February 16 - April 14. **Trapping District 4, 5, 6 and 7:** March 2 - April 14. A trapper license must be purchased by November 30 of the current year to be valid for chasing bobcat. Bobcat chasing is open each day one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Dogs may be used to chase bobcats within prescribed seasons. All Wildlife Managment Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and Deer, Elk and Mountain Lion Hunting District 282 are closed to the bobcat chase season.

It is prohibited for a hound handler or bobcat hunter to release dogs on a bobcat track, or allow dogs to chase a bobcat, or hold a bobcat at bay, when the season is not open to hunting or chasing bobcats.

Bobcats may not be trapped to be later released for hunting and/or chasing with dogs. Wild furbearers captured alive must be immediately killed or released. It is unlawful for a person to possess or transport wild furbearers alive per MCA 87-3-11.

**Quotas** – Current harvest quota information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727, 24 hours a day or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached prior to the end of the regular season.The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has authorized the department to initiate a closure prior to reaching a quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 48-hour closure notice period.

**Reporting –** Trappers are required to personally report their bobcat harvest within 24 hours by calling the statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks reporting line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453) so that FWP can monitor quota levels. Trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, trapping district, county, specific location (legal description), and sex when reporting a furbearer harvest. When reporting a furbearer harvest, it is unlawful to subscribe to or make any statement that is materially false.

**Pelt Tagging –** Trappers are required to personally present the pelts of bobcat for tagging to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) employee within ten (10) days after harvest. Trappers are required to provide harvest registration data for bobcat at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Trappers unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must still register their pelts within ten (10) days after harvest by contacting a regional office to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or registered to FWP personnel within ten (10) days of harvest are subject to confiscation.

**Skulls** – It is mandatory that skulls of bobcat be turned into Fish, Wildlife & Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination. Skulls may be returned if indicated by trapper during harvest registration. The trapper is required to pay return delivery shipping costs per invoice from shipper. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis.

Trappers are requested to be able to identify or have skulls sorted by sex for bobcat before presenting them to FWP personnel.

**Incidental Take** – Furbearers that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or trapper limit is met that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within 24 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer per MCA 87-1-102.

**Export** – A federal export permit is required in addition to a Montana CITES tag before the pelts of bobcat may be exported from the United States. For general information on federal export requirements contact: Wildlife Inspector, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Great Falls International Airport, 2800 Terminal Drive, Suite 105, Great Falls MT 59404 or phone 406-453-5790 or fax 406-453-3657.

**MARTEN –**

**Trapping District 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Season Dates:** December 1 – February 15 of the following year.

Special Marten Regulations in Trapping Districts 1 and 2 – To minimize the incidental capture of lynx the following special marten regulations apply in a portion of Trapping Districts 1 and 2. See legal description, page 10.

Leaning Pole Sets – Pole diameter must be no larger than 4 inches for pole sets with trap and bait 48 inches above the ground.

**Limit** – Unlimited.

**Pelt Tagging** – Trappers are required to personally present the pelts of marten for tagging to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) employee within ten (10) days after the close of the season. Trappers are required to provide harvest registration data for martin at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Trappers unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must still register their pelts within ten (10) days after the season closes by contacting a regional office to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or registered to FWP personnel within ten (10) days after the end of the season are subject to confiscation.

**Skulls** – Marten skulls will not be collected.

**FISHER –**

**Trapping District 1 and 2 Season Dates:** December 1 – February 15 of the following year. Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota or statewide quota or statewide female subquota or on the season closure date, whichever occurs first.

Special Fisher Regulations in Trapping Districts 1 and 2 – To minimize the incidental capture of lynx the following special fisher regulations apply in a portion of Trapping Districts 1 and 2. See legal description, page 10.

Leaning Pole Sets – Pole diameter must be no larger than 4 inches for pole sets with trap and bait 48 inches above the ground.

**Limit** – A person may take and possess one (1) fisher per season.

**Fisher Quota** – Trapping District 1 has a quota of two (2) fisher. Trapping District 2 has a quota of five (5) fisher. Statewide quota is seven (7) fisher. Statewide female subquota is two (2) female fisher.

**Quotas** – Current harvest quota information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727, 24 hours a day or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached prior to the end of the regular season. The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has authorized the department to initiate a closure prior to reaching a quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 48-hour closure notice period.

**Reporting –** Trappers are required to personally report their fisher harvest within 24 hours by calling the statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks reporting line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453) so that FWP can monitor quota levels. Trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, trapping district, county, specific location (legal description), and sex when reporting a furbearer harvest. When reporting a furbearer harvest, it is unlawful to subscribe to or make any statement that is materially false.

**Pelt Tagging –** Trappers are required to personally present the pelts of fisher for tagging to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) employee within ten (10) days after harvest. Trappers are required to provide harvest registration data for fisher at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Trappers unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must still register their pelts within ten (10) days after harvest by contacting a regional office to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or registered to FWP personnel within ten (10) days of harvest are subject to confiscation.

**Carcasses** – It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all fisher be turned into Fish, Wildlife & Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if requested. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis. Any fisher pelt that is presented for tagging without the carcass in good condition shall be subject to confiscation.

**Incidental Take** – Furbearers that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or trapper limit is met that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within 24 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer per MCA 87-1-102.

**WOLVERINE –**

**Wolverine Management Unit (WMU) 1, 2 and 3 Season Dates:** December 1 – February 15 of the following year. License must be purchased no later than November 30. Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the WMU quota or on the season closure date, whichever occurs first. Refer to Legal Descriptions for WMU boundaries.

See WMU legal descriptions page 11.

**WMU 1 (Northern Core) –** Portions of Trapping Districts 1, 2, and 4.
**WMU 2 (Central Core) –** Portions of Trapping Districts 2, and 3.
**WMU 3 (Southern Core) –** Portions of Trapping Districts 3, and 5.
**WMU 4 (Central Insular Mountains) –** Portions of Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Special Wolverine Regulations in Trapping Districts 1 and 2 – To minimize the incidental capture of lynx the following special wolverine regulations apply in a portion of Trapping Districts 1 and 2. See legal description, page 10.

Leaning Pole Sets – Pole diameter must be no larger than 4 inches for pole sets with trap and bait 48 inches above the ground.

**Limit** – A person may take and possess one (1) wolverine per season.

**Wolverine Quota –**

WMU 1 has a quota of three (3) wolverine with a female subquota of 1.

WMU 2 has a quota of one (1) wolverine.

WMU 3 has a quota of one (1) wolverine.

WMU 4 has a quota of zero (0) wolverine.

**Quotas** – Current harvest quota information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727, 24 hours a day or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota or subquota is reached prior to the end of the regular season. The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has authorized the department to initiate a closure prior to reaching a quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 48-hour closure notice period.

**Reporting –** Trappers are required to personally report their wolverine harvest within 24 hours by calling the statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks reporting line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453) so that FWP can monitor quota levels. Trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, trapping district, county, specific location (legal description), and sex when reporting a furbearer harvest. When reporting a furbearer harvest, it is unlawful to subscribe to or make any statement that is materially false.

**Pelt Tagging –** Trappers are required to personally present the pelts of wolverine for tagging to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) employee within ten (10) days after harvest. Trappers unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must still register their pelts within ten (10) days after harvest by contacting a regional office to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or registered to FWP personnel within ten (10) days of harvest are subject to confiscation.

**Carcasses** – It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all wolverine be turned into Fish, Wildlife & Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skull will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if desired. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis. Any wolverine pelt that is presented for tagging without the carcass in good condition shall be subject to confiscation.

**Incidental Take** – Furbearers that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or trapper limit is met that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within 24 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer per MCA 87-1-102.

**SWIFT FOX – CLOSED SEASON.**

**Incidental Take** – Furbearers that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or trapper limit is met that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within 24 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer per MCA 87-1-102.

**LYNX – CLOSED SEASON.**

Lynx are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act.

Avoid placing sets that might attract lynx.

Accidentally trapped lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee within five (5) days of release.

**Incidental Take** – Furbearers that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or trapper limit is met that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within 24 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer per MCA 87-1-102.

## Report Gray Wolf Sightings

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks requests that trappers report any sightings or wolf sign. FWP can help with ideas on how to decrease the chances of incidentally trapping a wolf.

If you incidentally catch a wolf, contact the nearest FWP Regional Office or one of the following FWP Wolf Specialists. Information provided by trappers and hunters will aid in the management of wolves.

Helena – 461-0587
Bozeman – 581-3664
Bozeman – 581-3281
Butte – 425-3355
Kalispell – 250-5047
Missoula – 865-0017

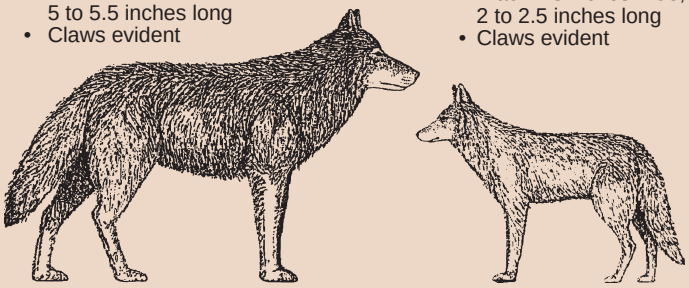
For more information, or to report wolf sign, go to FWP's website at: fwp.mt.gov and click on Montana Wolf Management.

**WOLF**

- 2.5 feet tall
- 5-6 feet long
- 70-120 pounds
- Broad snout
- Round ears
- Color light gray to black
- Long, low howl
- Track 4.5 inches wide, 5 to 5.5 inches long
- Claws evident

**COYOTE**

- 1.5 feet tall
- 4 feet long
- 30-40 pounds
- Narrow snout
- Pointed ears
- Color light gray to brown
- Track 2.5 inches wide, 2 to 2.5 inches long
- Claws evident



Recommendations to minimize accidental capture of wolves.

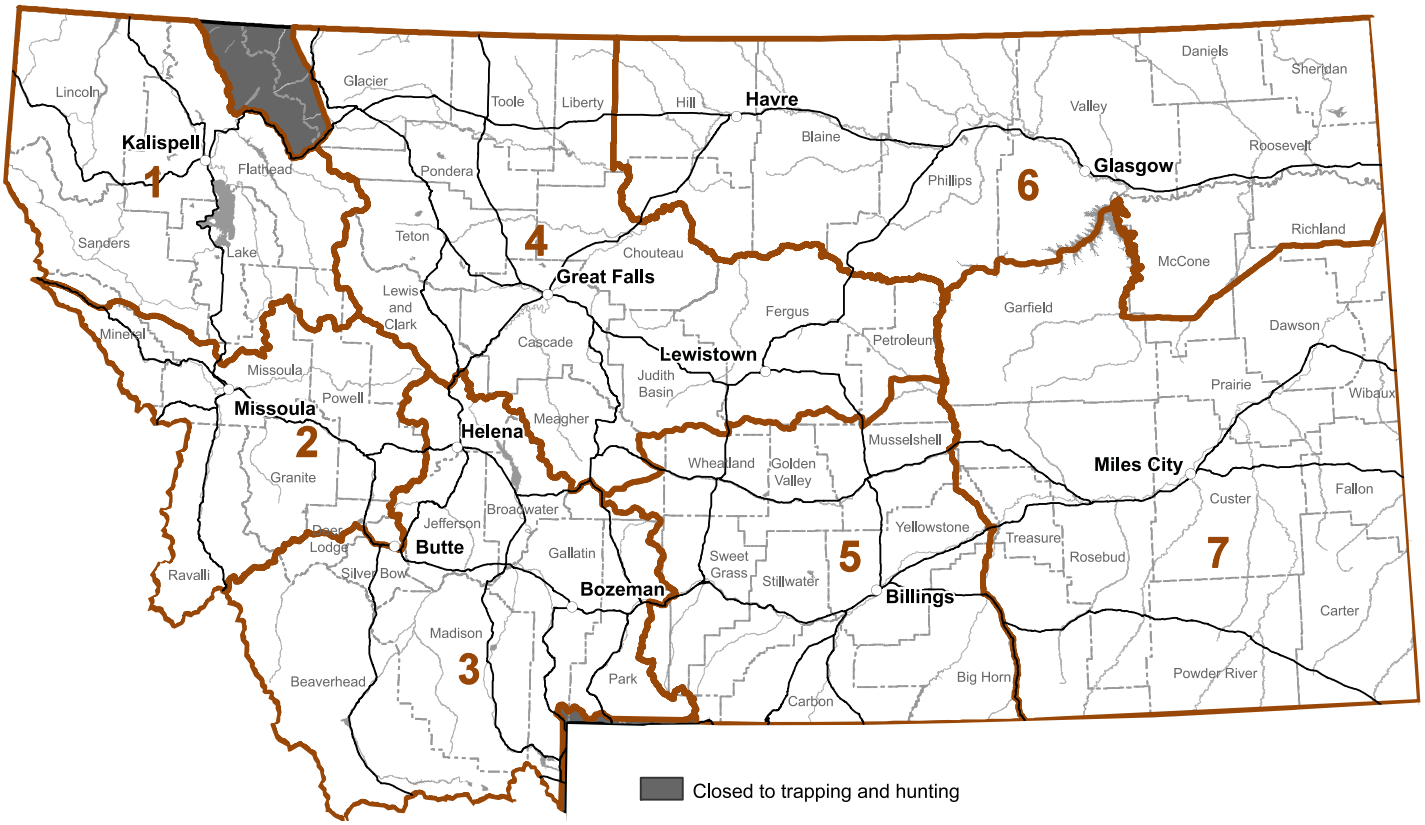
When setting coyote traps, snares or other furbearer traps, scout the area for wolf sign. Wolves travel great distances daily, but recent and common sign in an area may mean the wolves are there for a reason. Avoid catching wolves by avoiding recent wolf activity. If you are trapping where wolves have been, here are some tips to help minimize damage to or loss of traps.

Use weaker / smaller traps that would still hold coyotes, but probably not wolves. Trapping systems for coyotes can be improved to reduce the chance of losing traps or injuring wolves unnecessarily. Double staking or cross pinning stakes (metal, 18-24 inches long) can prevent trap loss. Wolves are strong enough to pull out disposable or shorter stakes, especially in soft substrate. Staked traps should have about 18" or less of chain and a stout swivel system. Reinforce links by welding if necessary.

When using a drag system, use heavy drags and chains with a stout swivel. Make sure all links are welded and swivels are strong. The drag system should be heavy enough to hold a 100+ pound animal and prevent a wolf from walking off with the trap. Traps anchored to a drag can have up to 7 feet of chain. Reinforce links by welding if necessary.

Required breakaway snares may release a neck-snared wolf under some circumstances. Neck snares must be well anchored and should have a long cable. Be mindful of the where and how the snare is placed relative to obstacles such as logs. Obstacles could entangle an animal caught incidentally, preventing the breakaway from working properly.

## Trapping District Boundaries




## Trapping District Legal Descriptions

**District 1 –**

Those portions of Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell and Sanders counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Continental Divide intersects with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian line, then westerly along said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly along said border to its junction with the Sanders-Mineral County line, then easterly along said county line to Trail 404 near Combest Peak, then east on Trail 404 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Montana Route 135, then easterly along said route to Trail 242, then southerly along said trail to Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then easterly along said divide and Sanders County line to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then northerly and easterly and then southerly along said reservation to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then east and north along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Wolverine Peak, then south, east and north along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, the point of beginning.

**District 2 –**

Those portions of Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho border, then in an easterly direction along the Mineral County-Sanders County line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combest Peak, then east on said trail to Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road, then east along said road to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 415, then south and east on said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River at the Cascade Campground, then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile-Seigel Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide, then southerly, easterly and northerly along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then west and north along said interstate to its junction with State Route1, northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly and northerly along said border to Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

**District 3 –**

Those portions of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly and easterly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then North easterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then northwesterly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 12,then westerly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line and subsequently continuing northwesterly along the Meagher-Lewis and Clark county line to the Beaver Creek Elk Creek Divide, then westerly along said divide to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Humps cabin, then southwesterly a long the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch Divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along

said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287,then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then westerly and northerly along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Mt. Tiny, the point of beginning.

**Upper Madison Beaver Management Area –** Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to U. S Highway 287, then northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek, then up said creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, then northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line, then westerly and northerly along this boundary to the Madison River, then easterly along said river to the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

**District 4 –**

Those portions of Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton and Toole counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park intersects the United States-Canada Boundary, then east along said boundary to the Liberty-Hill County line, then south on said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly and southerly along the south edge of said reservoir to the Musselshell River, then southerly along the west bank of said river to State Route 200, then west along said route to Winnett, then southwesterly on the Winnett to Roundup Road (FAS 244) to its junction with US Highway 87, then north on said highway approximately 4 miles to Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the South Fork of Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the Red Hill Road, then south along said road to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly along said divide to the head of Meadow Creek, then westerly down said creek to US Highway 191, then south on said highway to the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line, then westerly on said line and subsequently continuing westerly along the Meagher-Judith Basin County line to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then south on this road to US Highway 12, then southeasterly on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then southwesterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 89, then northwesterly on said highway to its intersection with US Highway 12, then southwesterly on said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then north along said line and Meagher-Lewis and Clark county line to the Beaver Creek-Elk Creek divide, then westerly along said divide to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Hump Cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek-Porcupine Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary, then easterly and northerly along said boundary to the United States-Canada boundary, the point of beginning.

**District 5 –**

Those portions of Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning at Wolverine Peak where the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide meets with the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River Divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northwesterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then north on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then northeasterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 12, then northwesterly on said highway to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then north on said road to the Meagher-Judith Basin county line, then easterly along said line and subsequently continuing easterly along the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line to its junction with US Highway 191, then northerly on said highway to its junction with Meadow Creek near Garniel, then northeasterly along said creek to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then easterly along said divide to its intersection with the Red Hill Road, then north along said road to South Fork Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to US Highway 87, then southerly along said highway to Route 244, then northerly along said route to Winnett, then east along US Highway 200 to the Musselshell River, then south along the east bank of said river to the Melstone-Custer Road bridge, then south along the Melstone-Custer Road to Interstate 94 near Custer, then east along said interstate to State Route 47, then south along said route to Interstate 90 at Hardin, then south along said interstate to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then westerly along said line to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide at Wolverine Peak, the point of beginning.

**District 6 –**

Those portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning.

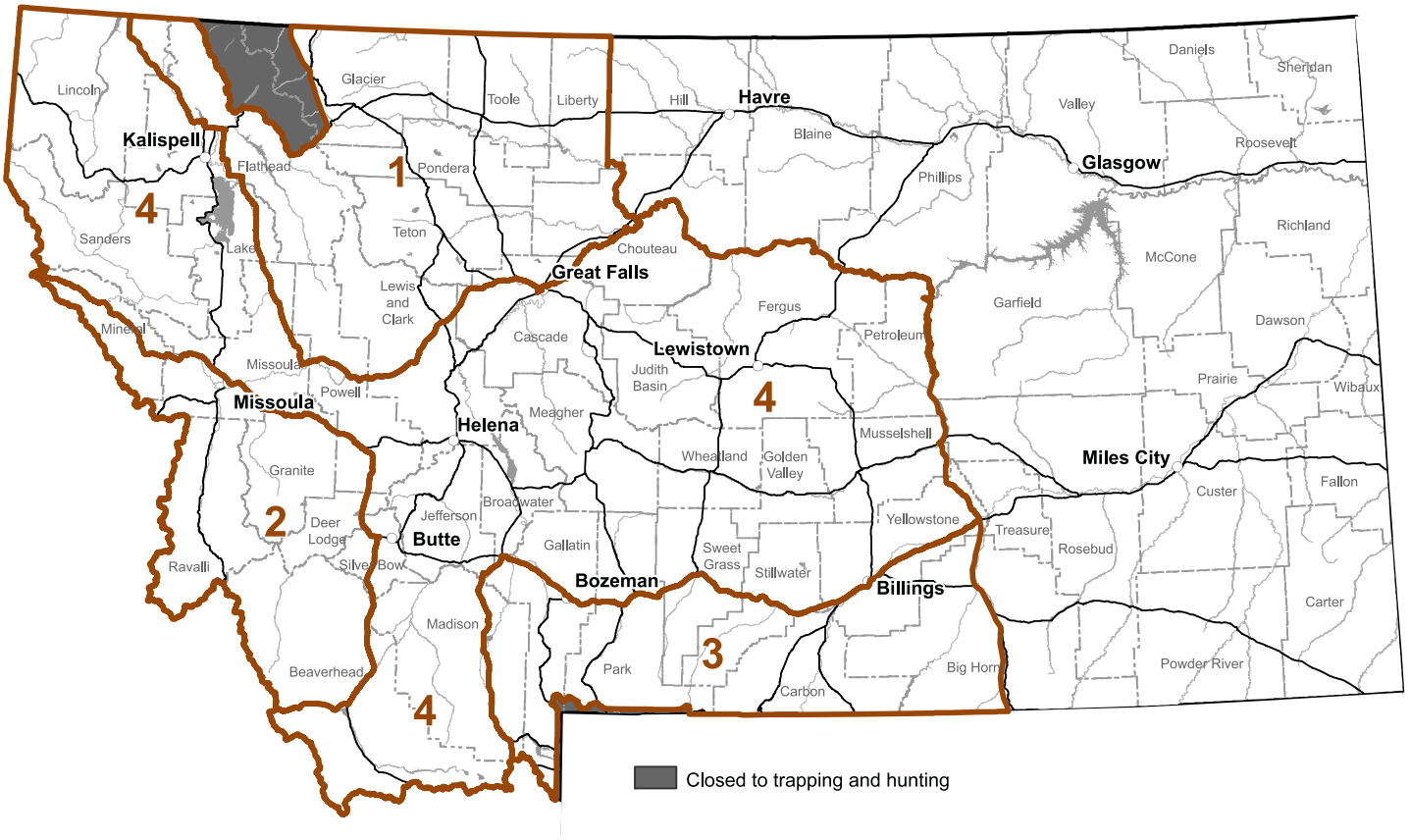
**District 7 –**

Those portions of Bighorn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, Yellowstone and Wibaux Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 47 and Interstate 94, then east along said interstate to the intersection with the Melstone-Custer Road near Custer, then north along said road to Melstone, then east along U. S. Highway 12 to the Musselshell River bridge, then north along the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Missouri River, then east and northeast down said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south up said creek to Little Dry Creek, then east along State Route 200 to the Montana-North Dakota state line, then south to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to Interstate 90, then north along said interstate to State Route 47, then north along said state route to Interstate 94,the point of beginning.

**Portions of Trapping Districts 1 and 2 for Special Bobcat, Marten, Fisher and Wolverine Regulations –**

Those portions of Trapping Districts 1 and 2 within the following described boundary: From the intersection of US Highway 2 with the Montana-Idaho state line then south and east along US Highway 2 to its intersection with US Highway 93 at Kalispell then southerly along US Highway 93 to its intersection with Interstate 90 then southeasterly along Interstate 90 to its intersection with US Highway 12 at Garrison then easterly along US Highway 12 to its intersection with the Continental Divide at McDonald Pass then northerly along the Continental Divide to its intersection with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the US-Canada border then west along said border to its intersection with the Montana-Idaho state line then south along said line to its intersection with US Highway 2 the point of beginning.

## Wolverine Management Units




## Wolverine Management Unit Legal Descriptions

**WMU 1 (Northern Core)** – Beginning at the intersection of Highway 93 and the US/Canada border at Roosville; then south along said highway to Highway 40; then east along said highway to Highway 2 at Columbia Falls; the south along said highway to Highway 35; then south along said highway to Highway 83; then south along said highway to Highway 200; then east along said highway to the Missouri River at Great Falls; then east down said river to the the Marias River; then north up said river to the Hill-Liberty County line; then north along said line to the US/Canada border; then west along said border to the Glacier NP boundary; then southwesterly and northwesterly along said boundary back to the US/Canada border; then west to along said border to Highway 93 at Roosville, the point of beginning.

**WMU 2 (Central Core)** – Beginning at the intersection of Interstate 90 and the MT/Idaho border at Lookout Pass; then southeasterly on said interstate to Interstate15 at Rocker; then south along said interstate to Highway 324 at Clark Canyon Reservoir; then west on said highway to Lemhi Pass Road; then west along said road to the MT/Idaho border at Lemhi Pass; then north along said border to Interstate 90 at Lookout Pass the, point of beginning.

**WMU 3 (Southern Core)** – Begining at the intersection of Highway 87 and the MT/Idaho border at Raynold's Pass; then north on said highway to Highway 287; then north on said highway to Interstate90; then east on said interstate to Interstate94 ; then east on said interstate to Custer; then south on Highway 47 to Interstate 90; then south on said interstate to the MT/Wyo border; then west along said border to Yellowstone National Park boundary; then westerly and southerly along said boundary to the MT/Idaho border; then northwest along said border to Raynold's Pass, the point of beginning.

**WMU 4 (Central Insular Mountains) –** Beginning at Roosville on the US/Canadian border; then west on said border to MT/Idaho border; then south along said borderto Interstate 90 at Lookout Pass; then east along said interstate to Interestate 15 at Rocker; then southerly along said interstate to Highway 324 at Clark Canyon Reservoir; then west on said highway to Lemhi Pass Road; then west along said road to Lemhi Pass on the MT/Idaho border; then south and east along said border to Highway 87 at Raynold's Pass; then north along said highway to Highway 287; then north along said highway to Interstate 90; then east along said interstate to Interstate 94; then east along said interstate to the intersection with the Melston-Custer road near Custer, then north along said road to Melstone, then east on Highway 12 to Route 500; then north on said route to Musselshell River at Mosby; then north on said river to Ft Peck/Missouri River; then west on said river to Great Falls and Highway 200; then west on said highway to its intersection with Highway 83; then north along said highway to Highway 35; then north on said highway to Highway 2; then north to Columbia Falls and Highway 40; then west on said highway to Highway 93; then north along said highway to Roosville, the point of beginning.

## Who To Contact

Bobcat, Otter, Fisher and Wolverine 24-hour Harvest Reporting Number.....**1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453)**
Bobcat, Otter, Fisher and Wolverine Quota Status (24 hours/day - 7 days/week).....**1-800-711-8727**
Mountain Lion Quota Status (24 hours/day - 7 days/week).....**1-800-385-7826**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters**

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
406-444-2535 – fwp.mt.gov

Hunter Education.....**406-444-3188**
Wildlife Division.....**406-444-2612**
Enforcement Division.....**406-444-2452**
Parks Division (Montana State Parks).....**406-444-3750**
Telephone Device for the Deaf.....**406-444-1200**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters**

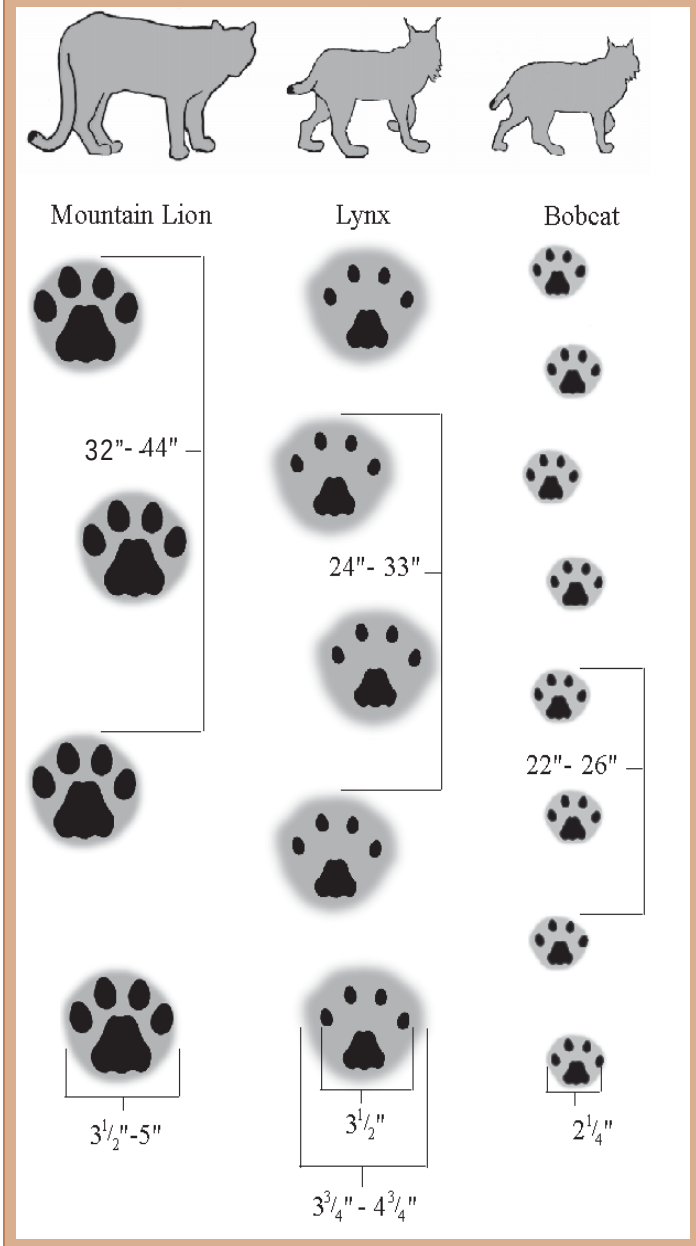
**REGION 1**
490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901.....**406-752-5501**
**REGION 2**
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804.....**406-542-5500**
**REGION 3**
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715.....**406-994-4042**
**REGION 4**
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405.....**406-454-5840**
**REGION 5**
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105.....**406-247-2940**
**REGION 6**
54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230.....**406-228-3700**
**REGION 7**
Industrial Site West, PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301.....**406-234-0900**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Area Resource Offices**
**Butte**
1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701.....**406-494-1953**
**Havre**
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501.....**406-265-6177**
**Helena**
930 Custer Avenue West
Helena, MT 59602.....**406-495-3260**
**Lewistown**
2358 Airport Road, PO Box 938,
Lewistown, MT 59457.....**406-538-4658**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

## Cat Identification

Field identification characteristics of mountain lion, lynx, and bobcat—physical markings and tracks in the snow (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1999).




- Note differences in tall length of lion and black markings on tip of lynx and bobcat tail.
- Lynx ear tufts are longer than bobcat ear tufts.
- Lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length differences between species.